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Book Review

'Terrorism: The Soviet Connection'

By RIZWAN SALIM

Ray Cline and Yonah Alexander have written an informative book detailing hard evidence that the Kremlin supports and trains various international terrorist groups, especially the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Within the span of a short volume, the authors reproduce and discuss a selection of captured PLO documents which are concrete evidence that various PLO factions receive training — terrorist as well as conventional military — at camps in the Soviet Union and other Eastern European satellite nations.

The documents—along with tons of military hardware — were captured by

the advancing Israeli army in Lebanon in 1982. The authors also show that "The PLO has also served as a transmission belt for the export of KGB terrorist techniques to other regions and hence constitutes an essential element in Soviet regional and global strategy."

The authors' evidence comes from many sources. In addition to the captured PLO papers, Cline and Alexander rely on terrorist confessions and reliable newspaper stories on terrorist activities reported in European and Middle Eastern newspapers.

Both authors have impressive credentials to analyze the evidence of the Soviet support and training of international terrorism.

Ray Cline has served as the deputy director of intelligence at the Central Intelligence Agency. He is now professor of international relations at Georgetown University, and also functions as a senior associate at the school's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

Yonah Alexander is a senior researcher at the CSIS; he is also professor and director of the Institute for Studies in International Terrorism at the State University of New York. Alexander has written extensively and published monographs on the subject of terrorism.

The chief merit of the book for the serious student of international affairs, and those wishing to learn more about a subject the liberal media studiously ignore, is that it accumulates in one concise and lucidly written volume a damning indictment that terrorism is a calculated instrument of Soviet foreign policy — its roots going back to the early history of the Communist state.

The Appendix to *Terrorism: The Soviet Connection* includes 17 documents showing Soviet military intelligence's links with the PLO. These documents include graduation certificates awarded to PLO operatives for military training in the USSR, Hungary — and Vietnam, too.

For example, there is a certificate awarded to a PLO captain by "The Ministry of Defense, USSR," for completing the course at Vystrel Academy.

Cline and Alexander insist that "Thousands of PLO members have been trained by Soviet and satellite instructors...in staff and command courses, as well as a variety of professional subjects such as communications, electronics, engineering, artillery, pilot training, biological and chemical warfare, and military weapons maintenance."

The conventional warfare instruction also includes "the preparation of electrical charges, the production of incendiary devices, and the methods of exploding metals and destructing bridges."

And all this to what end? Is it merely the Soviet desire to help the PLO? The authors argue that "The PLO is useful in its capacity as a resource center for terrorist organizations, seeking to subvert non-Communist regimes everywhere."